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2 October 1978

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NOTE FOR: FPH

OLG #78-3290

SUBJECT: September 28 letter from Chairman Rose to DCI

MR

The letter from Chairman Rose is fully accurate. The details building up to the aborted September 28 meeting are as follow:

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-- On September 20 [] Acting National Intelligence Officer for Conventional Forces, NFAC, did spell out that "important new evidence of a sensitive nature" had in fact fully confirmed previously arrived at analysis with regard to the estimate of Warsaw Pact preparation time. It is worth noting that the NIE had been fully written (but had not yet gone to press) when the highly sensitive DDO report arrived. The report in question served to confirm previously arrived at analytical judgments--it did not alter the judgments.

-- After the September 20 briefing Chairman Rose indicated that he would be available for a follow-up briefing on the sensitive information the following Thursday, 28 September at 0930. Apparently, the DDO (I am not sure who) determined that [] Chief, Theater Forces Division, Office of Strategic Research, NFAC, should brief Chairman Rose. I questioned whether the DDO really wanted an NFAC analyst to brief a DDO case and was referred by Don Gregg to [] who was Acting Deputy Division Chief, SE Division. She, in turn, referred me to [] Reports Office, SE Division. This latter office apparently has the responsibility and authority to determine to whom and under what circumstances SE reporting will be made available.

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-- In my conversations with [] he indicated he would do the briefing or would designate someone else from DDO and he also indicated he would see if he could gain approval to show the "Blue Striper" to Chairman Rose.

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-- On 27 September I called [] and he told me that they had decided that it would be better for [] to conduct the briefing. He did not tell me and I failed to ask whether the Blue Striper would be made available to the Committee. He also did not tell me and I failed to ask whether the Committee staff would be excluded from this briefing.

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-- Apparently NFAC analysts and DDO were proceeding on the assumption that we were going to brief only Chairman Rose; however, neither Mr. Giza nor I knew this.

25X1 -- On 28 September when I got in the car with Mr. [redacted] he informed me that he did not have the authority to provide the Blue Striper to the Committee and also that the briefing was to exclude Committee staff. He also told me that the briefing he was prepared to give was going to be fairly limited. I then made several phone calls from the car to ensure that DDO hierarchy was fully informed of the decision not to make the Blue Striper available to Chairman Rose and the possible reaction from the Committee as a result of that decision. 25X1 I was assured by [redacted] that Mr. John H. Stein was aware of the decision and fully supported it.

-- I then called Mr. Giza from the car and told him that I regretted to inform him that Committee staff would be excluded from the briefing. Mr. Giza told me that it was shameful that we were providing him this kind of information so close to the briefing, I agreed with him, apologized, and stated that I was sorry but that is the way it is. Mr. Giza then told me not to bother coming in and cancelled the briefing.

25X1 In subsequent conversations with [redacted] and Dick Giza I determined from the former that the briefing that would have been given Chairman Rose was going to be limited and determined from the latter that a limited briefing to Chairman Rose alone would have provoked much the same kind of letter we already have in hand.

What we have here is in the first instance a statement to the Committee of our possession of information which provided critical validation of analysis of Warsaw Pact preparation time and secondly a refusal on the part of the Agency to share that information with an oversight committee. While it can be argued that the Committee does not need this information to evaluate the Agency product, the Subcommittee involved believed that it did need the information and is obviously upset by our failure to provide it. On the issue of not having told the Committee more in advance of the exclusion of staff, there was an internal slip in communications which will not be repeated.

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